

"The Lord understands. He knows that I'm afraid of what people will think of me or say to me or about me, and that I really don't feel comfortable talking about religion. And I believe the Lord understands my anxieties. I don't think He'll frown at my honest feelings of fear and discomfort."

And so we excuse ourselves for not obeying His revealed will, by telling ourselves what we want to hear about the character of God and what we want to hear about God's will for us, and we go on our way believing that this relieves us from any further responsibility.

But we do so at a cost – the cost of displacing the biblical conception of the character of God with a conception of our own, one that is more congenial to us.

Oh, we don't change our idea of God much – just a little – just enough to feel satisfied and comfortable with Him. But by so doing, we have entered the danger zone – the zone in which the true and living God is gradually transformed into an idol conceived by our own imaginations – a god of our own making.

In our study of 1 Corinthians 10:1-14 we have seen how Paul warned the believers who would read this letter not to do the things the Israelites did in the wilderness. The people of Israel became dissatisfied with the one true and living God, wanted a different kind of God, departed from daily, vital faith in God, and moved toward idolatry.

They expressed their desires to gratify their sinful appetites, to make God tangible and substantial and physically real, to break through the limits that God